

Charles Atlas—one person can stop anything. They have the right to do that. We understand that. But procedurally that is where we are now. Hopefully, we can work our way through this and have some debate on this detainee matter and move on to the fence bill, hopefully work something out on that, and put us on a glidepath to completing the work of the body, as the majority wants to do, in the next couple of days.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, will the Senator yield on that point for a couple of moments?

Mr. REID. Of course.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I commend the two leaders for trying to work out these issues. Over the years, I have seen leaders try to do it at the end of a session. I don't consider myself a Charles Atlas, but I do consider myself a U.S. Senator. I have taken an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States.

Some of us have sat in this Chamber and in committee for 5 years while what was being done in detaining the prisoners violated our Constitution and our traditions in the United States. Seven of the nine Members of the Supreme Court are Republicans, incidentally, and have said the same thing in the Hamdan decision.

We tried for 5 years to get the administration to listen to us, to tell us there are ways we could have worked this out so the United States would follow its own laws, would follow its own Constitution, would follow the ideals on which this country was founded, and give that kind of example, a shining light to the rest of the world. And now suddenly the administration, after meeting behind closed doors, predominantly just with the Republicans, says: Here, in 2 hours' time, we have a solution; accept it. I have some problems with that. I will discuss this with the leaders.

As I said, I don't stand here as Charles Atlas, but I stand here as a U.S. Senator with my rights and to protect the rights of Americans.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, reclaiming the floor for just a moment, I say to my friend from Vermont, I consider him a Charles Atlas today and any time I have ever served with him in the Senate. He is one of the most senior Members in the Senate. He is the person the Democrats have designated to be the arbiter of issues that go on in the Judiciary Committee, the busiest committee in the Senate.

I also say to my friend that he is not only a U.S. Senator but a very good one, and I look forward to working with him to work through this issue, and with other members of the committee, as I mentioned, not in name, but there are others I need to work with on the Judiciary Committee.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, we will continue our discussions. The goal will be to make sure Senators do have the

opportunity to debate and amend this bill. We are just trying to put together an agreement to do that. If not, we will have the cloture vote and still have that debate and that opportunity as we go forward.

NATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS INVESTMENT ACT OF 2006

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I wish to comment briefly on another issue, the National Competitiveness Investment Act of 2006, a bill that was introduced yesterday with bipartisan sponsorship—myself and Senator REID—a bill that focuses on our global competitiveness by focusing on education, by focusing on the resources we should be investing right here at home to make sure we are globally competitive with nations such as China and India. If we don't act, our Nation is going to lose our competitive edge.

The United States today has the strongest scientific and technological enterprise in the world, including the best universities and the best corporations investing in research. But there is growing evidence and recognition that our educational system is failing to equip our young people and older people today to compete in this increasingly global economy. We are failing in the very areas that have in the past underpinned our strength, in areas such as mathematics, science, and engineering.

We are going to have to invest in the future in those specific areas if we are going to preserve our competitive edge, what has made this country great, as we have competed with other nations around the world. We are in a 21st century global economy which depends on mathematics, science, and technology. Those are the foundations. They are the engine to create that economic security for the next generation.

Two years ago, the Senate Energy Committee asked the National Academies to identify policies that would enable the United States to successfully compete and prosper. The National Competitiveness Investment Act of 2006, a bipartisan bill we introduced yesterday, incorporates the recommendations made by the National Academies and a number of other very similar studies that have been produced over the last 2 to 3 years.

The bill reflects the bipartisan leadership of many Senators, including those of the three major Senate committees responsible—Energy, Commerce, and the HELP Committee.

In these few moments, I wish to comment on what this bill does because it is important for people to understand how we invest and where we invest to improve that global competitiveness in this 21st century economy.

The bill doubles our investment for basic Federal research over the next 5 years at the National Science Foundation and increases investment for basic research at NASA and other science-related agencies.

It creates a new teachers institute to improve teaching techniques—how we teach math and science—focusing on education, on teachers who are responsible for putting forth that knowledge.

It creates a DARPA-modeled advanced research projects agency at the Department of Energy dedicated to the goal of increasing innovation and competitiveness breakthroughs in technology.

It expands scholarship programs that are aimed to recruit and train math and science teachers—teachers who really need to focus on the K-12 area.

It encourages more students, more high school students, to take advanced placement courses and enter the international baccalaureate programs.

It will take an increased investment. Over the next 5 years, our economy will exceed \$76 trillion—\$76 trillion is how big our economy will grow. A 1-percent investment for the future is really a small price to pay for that continued security and leadership in the world.

I did not have the opportunity to speak to this bill yesterday when it was introduced. I encourage our colleagues to join the bipartisan leadership—again, myself and Senator REID who are sponsors of this legislation.

Mr. President, I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Vermont is recognized.

RETIRING FROM THE SENATE

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, even a diehard Red Sox fan has to give the devil his due. Probably the most moving moment in the history of baseball was when longtime New York Yankees first baseman Lou Gehrig walked on the field to accept the tribute of his fans and teammates. On Independence Day in 1939, he told the crowd at Yankee Stadium that he considered himself the luckiest man on the face of the Earth.

I consider myself pretty lucky, too. I was elected to the House of Representatives in 1974. That was not the best year to be a Republican candidate. Out of an enormous freshman class of 92 new Members, which included CHRIS DODD and TOM HARKIN, only 17 of us were Republicans. And as CHUCK GRASSLEY and I walked down the aisle of the House, he with crutches and I with a neck brace, one Democrat muttered: There's two we almost got.

Time has gotten just about all of us. With my retirement and that of HENRY HYDE in the House, CHUCK GRASSLEY next year will become the last remaining Member of the Republican class of